

the lens magnification changer and through the objective lens 32. The lines of sight extending through each ocular 27 and the remainder of the stereo microscope both lie in a common plane. This provides the advantage over conventional stereo microscopes of shortening the optical paths through the microscope which improves light transmission and provides less distortion of an image observed. Pivotal mounting each of the oculars provides for adjusting an angle between each optical path extending through an ocular and an optical path extending through a respective bore of the lens magnification changer to improve the stereoscopic image of an object observed. Increasing the amount of spacing between the bores 35 and 36 of the lens magnification changer 33 improves the stereoscopic effect of the image observed.

In the specification, please substitute the following amended paragraph [0012] for paragraph [0012] as originally filed.

[0012] Housing 26, as shown in Fig. 3, includes an internal mount 55 having a base section 56 ~~a body portion 46~~ on which the lens magnification changer 33, prism assemblies 31, oculars 27 and camera 38 ~~are~~ is mounted. Rigid straps 47 and 48 are attached to the ~~body portion 46~~ base section 56 by suitable means such as rivets or screws. Upper housing shell 49 and lower housing shell 50 are attached about internal mount 55 ~~body portion 46~~ by screws 51 which are screwed into lower housing shell ~~body portion~~ 50. Objective lens 32 is held in place in the housing 26 by one or more screw threaded members 51 which are screwed into an end of the housing 26. A plate 52 which is positioned in a groove in the upper housing shell 49 and mates with the lower

housing shell helps to complete the housing 26.